

Barristers and Solicitors/Patent and Trade Mark Agents
Practice Restricted to Intellectual Property Law

February 7, 2001

Micheline Gravelle B.Sc., M.Sc. (Immunol.)
416 957 1682 mgravelle@bereskinparr.com

Your Reference: n/a
Our Reference: 9611-16

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231
U.S.A.

Dear Sirs:

Re: **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**
United States National Phase Entry of PCT/CA99/00746
Entitled: HIV Vaccine
Inventor: Chil-Yong Kang and Yan Li

We are simultaneously entering national phase in the United States for PCT/CA99/00746. The present letter is to file a Preliminary Amendment to the application. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 8, 14, 20, 21, 24, 25 and 28 as follows:

a1 8. (Amended) A vaccine incorporating the retrovirus of [any one of] claim[s] 1[-7].

a2 14. (Amended) A method according to [any one of] claim[s] 9[-13] wherein the virus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

a3 20. (Amended) A vaccine according to [any one of] claim[s] 15 [to 19] wherein the virus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

21. (Amended) A vaccine according to [anyone of] claim[s] 15 [to 20] further comprising an adjuvant.